

5 Descriptions of Trails and Access Points

5.1 Results of GPS Trail Mapping

In cooperation with WSSC, naming conventions were adopted to summarize the GIS mapping data and subsequent text discussions. The trail naming conventions are presented in Table 5-1.

5.1.1 Summary of Rocky Gorge Reservoir Trail Mapping

Figure 5-1 presents an overview of the GPS trail mapping for the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. Approximately 21.2 miles of WSSC Access Road were mapped around the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, of which a portion has been designated by WSSC for equestrian use (designated equestrian trail). The designated Access Road equestrian trail extends from Supplee Lane to Tucker Lane, and is approximately 10.1 miles in length.

In addition to the WSSC Access Road, approximately 28.2 miles of shoreline and interior trails were mapped in the Rocky Gorge Reservoir buffer property. Of these 28.2 miles of actively used trails mapped, only 1.7 miles of shoreline trail is currently authorized by WSSC for shoreline fishing, and 0.3 miles serves as public access at Scott's Cove Recreation Area. The remaining 26.2 miles of shoreline and interior trails are not authorized by WSSC for any recreational use. A summary of the mapping data collected by EA for the Rocky Gorge Reservoir buffer property is presented in Table 5-2. Individual trail segments are discussed below.

5.1.1.1 Rocky Gorge Shoreline Trails

Tucker Lane

The shoreline fishing trail (Figure 5-2) is accessed at Tucker Lane and runs south along the west bank for approximately 0.4 miles. The trail width was between 2 to 3 feet. Motorcycle and ATV tracks were observed on the trail. Localized bank erosion caused by accessing the edge of water was also observed. The following safety issues were identified:

- fallen trees 2 to 3 feet off the ground creating tripping hazard (Photo 5-1), and
- a hole in the trail due to slope failure that created a trail width of less than a foot (Photo 5-2).

Brown's Bridge at Ednor Lane

The Brown's Bridge Recreation Area at Ednor Lane has access to shoreline fishing trails that run both east and west of the access area.

The trailhead for the shoreline fishing trail running west is located at the west side parking area about 500 feet from the shoreline. The designated shoreline fishing trail runs northwest toward the shoreline for approximately 0.3 miles, but an unauthorized trail continues for another 0.2 miles (Figure 5-2). The trail is generally 2 to 3 feet wide. Horse tracks and manure were observed on the trail, indicating an unauthorized recent recreational use. In several areas on this trail, horseback riding has ripped out vegetation at the roots and displaced soil material causing slope and channelized erosion (Photo 5-3 and Photo 5-4).

The trailhead for the shoreline fishing trail running east is located on the east side parking area leading to the boat ramp. The designated shoreline fishing trail runs east along the shoreline for approximately 0.1 miles, but an unauthorized trail continues for another 0.5 miles (Figure 5-2).

Supplee Lane Recreation Area

A shoreline trails run both east and west from the Supplee Lane Recreation Area (Figure 5-3). The shoreline fishing trail on the west trail segment runs for about 0.1 miles, but an unauthorized trail continues for another 0.6 miles. Fishing equipment packaging and beer cans/bottles were found along the trail (Photo 5-5). Localized bank erosion caused by accessing the edge of the water was observed. The shoreline trail connects to an old horseback riding trail (Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail) after 0.5 miles from the public access point, but then continues as an unauthorized trail. East of the public access area, the shoreline fishing trail runs for about 0.1 miles. An unauthorized shoreline trail continues for about 1.5 miles, and has substantial bank erosion (Photo 5-6).

Brown's Bridge Recreation Area - North Bank

This trail originates from the closed Brown's Bridge Recreation Area on the north bank of Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Howard County) on Brown's Bridge Road (Figure 5-2). The unauthorized shoreline trail is approximately 2 to 3 feet wide, and runs west along the shoreline for approximately 0.3 miles. There was fishing-related and other assorted trash on the trail. There is some localized bank erosion in areas that appear to be used for fishing. Motorcycle tracks at the beginning of the trail have caused rutting on the fairly steep slope (Photo 5-7) indicating unauthorized recreational access to WSSC buffer property.

The eastern shoreline fishing trail segment runs for approximately 1 mile on flat to moderate slopes, and is 2 to 3 feet wide. There is moderate erosion near the beginning of the trail where exposed roots were observed (Photo 5-8), and about half-way along the trail where the shoreline has a collapsed area of red soil (approximately 20×7×3 feet in size) (Photo 5-9). An overflowing trashcan was also observed in an unauthorized trail segment near the shoreline (Photo 5-10).

Scott's Cove Recreation Area

A shoreline trail runs both east and west from the Scott's Cove Recreation Area (Figure 5-3). This trail segment provides shore access for fishing and canoe launching, and contains a canoe storage area along the shore.

The west trail segment runs for about 1.2 miles, but only 0.2 miles are authorized for use. Fishing and other assorted trash was occasionally found along the trail (Photo 5-11). Horse manure was also found on the trail, indicating recent unauthorized recreational use (Photo 5-12). Localized bank erosion, caused by accessing canoe parking/storage and edge of water for fishing, was observed. The trail is currently stable, and in good condition, with the exception of several areas of erosion near the petroleum pipeline utility access (Photo 5-13). The east trail segment runs for about 0.8 miles, with only 0.2 miles being authorized for use.

5.1.1.2 Rocky Gorge Interior Trails

Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail

A supplemental reconnaissance-level survey was conducted by EA on 4 June 2012 to evaluate a 3.5 mile section of the Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail (Appendix B; and Photo 5-14) for horseback riding. This trail is no longer authorized by WSSC for public use, including horseback riding. The 3.5 mile section of the Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail is well aligned with the natural topography, has gentle slopes, and was determined to be in excellent condition for use by horses. The footing was observed to be firm and generally free from rocks, loose footing or deep footing. Two stream crossings were encountered consisting of gradual bank descents into a shallow stream. The footing was good at both crossings, comprised primarily of sand, gravel and some cobble, and there was little evidence of erosion at either of the stream crossings (Photo 5-15). In EA's observation, this 3.5 mile section of the Terry Ledley trail is an excellent horseback riding trail and was given a rating of 5. The trail typically runs between 75 feet to 100 feet from the shoreline, but gets as close as 50 feet from the shoreline in certain segments (Photo 5-16).

The entire Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail was subsequently mapped and is shown in Figure 5-3, which also shows the locations of observed localized erosion on the trail as defined in Section 3.4. The entire Terry Ledley trail is approximately 5.8 miles in length, and extends from Supplee Lane to Route 29, where it joins the Pat Oliva trail discussed below.

Pat Oliva Equestrian Trail

The Pat Oliva trail is another old horse trail located on the Montgomery County portion of the WSSC's Rocky Gorge buffer property. This trail is located on the southwest side of the reservoir extending from the south side of the Route 29 Bridge to the WSSC Access Road north of Brogden Road just before the end of Link Road (Figure 5-2). The trail runs parallel the shoreline for approximately 6.1 miles, typically running within 50 feet of the shoreline (Photo 5-17). There are trail spurs that link to the Rocky Gorge Access Road, and spurs that link to the reservoir shoreline. The trail width ranges from about 1 to 6 feet, with a typical width of 3 feet. Most of the trail surface consists of exposed soil, rock, and leaf litter. The trail slope is typically low to flat slope (<10 percent trail grade) (Photo 5-18), but has short segments with trail slopes as steep as 19 percent. Sections of the Pat Oliva trail are unstable and eroded due to poor alignment (e.g., Photo 5-19), or due to channelized erosion (Photo 5-20 and Photo 5-21). Soil erosion is also evident at muddy stream crossings (e.g., Photo 5-22). Horse tracks were found throughout the trail, and in some areas have resulted in small areas of disturbed soil (Photo 5-23). Horse manure and trash were found throughout the trail. Location of observed erosion on the Pat Oliva Trail and spurs are shown in Figure 5-2.

5.1.1.3 Rocky Gorge WSSC Access Road

Maps of the Rocky Gorge WSSC Access Road are shown in Figure 5-4 and Figure 5-5. In May 2011, WSSC designated the portion of the Access Road extending from Supplee Lane (Prince George's County) to Tucker Lane (Montgomery County), approximately 10.1 miles, for recreational use as an equestrian trail. As described in Section 3.5, EA conducted a reconnaissance-level survey to evaluate the suitability of the designated equestrian trail for

horseback riding. The location of the designated equestrian trail is presented in Map 1 of Appendix B. The Field Visit Report for the equestrian trail survey is included as Appendix B.

The sections of the WSSC Access Road that have been designated for recreational use are summarized below in six sections. The equestrian trail was evaluated for slope and footing as described in Section 3.5.

Section 1 – Tucker Lane Access to Ednor Road Access

This Access Road section is characterized by steep terrain, with several significant stretches of very steep terrain where the Access Road goes up and down steep hillsides, and stormwater runoff has created substantial areas of serious erosion, gullies and washouts. The footing in these areas is poor, primarily consisting of loose boulder to cobble-size rock, interspersed with areas of crumbling subsoil and bedrock. This section was given a rating of 1 defined as an unsuitable or potentially unsafe riding trail. Most of this segment of Access Road could not be traveled by EA's 4 wheel drive vehicle.

Section 2 – Ednor Road Access to Brogden Road Access

The Access Road section near Ednor Road climbs a very steep hill, where steep terrain, combined with erosion and poor footing conditions make the trail very difficult to travel on horseback or 4 wheel drive vehicle. The footing in these areas is primarily loose cobble-size rock, interspersed with areas of crumbling subsoil and bedrock. This section was given a rating of 2 defined as a poor horseback riding trail.

Section 3 – Brogden Road Access to Batson Road Access

The terrain along this short section of the Access Road has moderate slope with a few areas of steep terrain, with reasonable footing. There were a few areas of rocky footing, but nothing that would be an impediment to horses. This section was given a rating of 3 defined as a moderate horseback riding trail.

Section 4 – Batson Road Access to Kruhm Road Access

The terrain along this section of the Access Road is moderate, with a few areas of moderately steep terrain, with reasonable footing. This section was given an overall trail rating of 3 defined as a moderate horseback riding trail.

Section 5 – Kruhm Road Access to Burtons Lane Access

Section 5 was not surveyed in its entirety due to limitations of access and time. The terrain along this section of the trail appears to be mostly moderate, with a few areas of moderately steep terrain, with reasonable footing. There were a few areas of rocky footing encountered, but nothing that would be an impediment to horses. This section was given an overall trail rating of 3 defined as a moderate horseback riding trail. However, there is a section of road that has been washed out due to a failed culvert (Photo 5-24, Photo 5-25, and Photo 5-26), which makes that portion of the road impassable.

Section 6 – Burtons Lane Access to Supplee Lane Access

The terrain along this section of the trail is mostly moderate, with a few areas of moderately steep terrain, but with reasonable footing. There were a few areas of rocky footing encountered,

but with one exception, nothing that would be an impediment to horses. Overall, this section was given a rating of 3. One particularly steep section of the trail was given a rating of 1 and deemed unsuitable for horseback riding in its current condition due to the steep terrain, rocky and unstable footing, serious erosion and deep gullies that needs repair (Photo 5-27). There are no stream crossings on this section of the Access Road, as all streams are directed through culverts under the Access Road.

5.1.1.4 Rocky Gorge WSSC Access Road - North

The northern sections of the WSSC Access Road in Howard County (Figure 5-4 and 5-5) are not designated for recreational use of any kind. These segments of the WSSC Access Road were mapped with handheld GPS, and their general condition documented. Individual segments of the northern WSSC Access Road are summarized below.

Harding Road Section

This Access Road section is located on the north side of the reservoir and is primarily used as a utility corridor. The road begins east of the intersection of Bishops Gate Lane and Harding Road. It continues southwest until the end of Old Columbia Road and then continues westward to the reservoir. The Access Road is heavily vegetated at the beginning, and tall grass and weeds that obscure the path (Photo 5-28). A few areas have exposed soil and rock. Conditions along the trail exhibited very little erosion or potential for further erosion due to heavily vegetated slopes with little exposed soil.

Route 29 to Brown's Bridge North Section

This Access Road section is located on the north side of the reservoir. This road is comprised of exposed soil, fist sized rubble, and roots. Areas of significant erosion were observed throughout the trail (e.g., Photo 5-29) and were characterized by rutting along the trail.

Brown's Bridge North to Fox Haven Section

This Access Road section is located on the northeast side of the reservoir and its southernmost point begins on the north side of Brown's Bridge. The trail is primarily Access Road with some utility use. The Access Road exhibits a high level of use. Exposed soils dominate the road base with intermittent areas of vegetation, rocks, and roots (Photo 5-30). Severe erosion occurs in areas of unauthorized motor bike use in the form of deep rutting (Photo 5-31).

5.1.2 Summary of Triadelphia Reservoir Trail Mapping

Figure 5-6 presents an overview of the GPS trail mapping for the Triadelphia Reservoir. Approximately 20.4 miles of WSSC Access Roads were mapped around the Triadelphia Reservoir. None of the WSSC Access Road located within the buffer property for the Triadelphia Reservoir is authorized for recreational use of any kind.

In addition to the Triadelphia portion of the WSSC Access Road, approximately 11.8 miles of shoreline and interior trails were mapped in the Triadelphia Reservoir buffer property. Of the 11.8 miles of actively used trails that were mapped, only 1.9 miles of shoreline trail are currently authorized by WSSC for shoreline fishing. The remaining 9.9 miles of active trails are not

authorized by WSSC for any recreational use. A summary of the mapping data collected by EA for the Triadelphia Reservoir buffer property is presented in Table 5-3.

5.1.2.1 Triadelphia Shoreline Trails and Interior Trails

Triadelphia Recreation Area Shoreline and Interior Trails

The shoreline trail is about 2 feet wide with steep slopes, and protruding rock formations. The main use for the shoreline trail was observed to be shoreline fishing. Trash (packaging from fishing gear and beer cans and bottles) was found along the trail (Photo 5-32). There were instances of bank erosion due to foot traffic along the shoreline (Photo 5-33). The shoreline trail ended at the edge of WSSC property boundary adjacent to MD 97 (Figure 5-7).

There are also upland trails originating from the overflow parking area at the service road. The unauthorized trails appeared to be created recently with vegetative clearing and no definitive trail pattern.

Greenbridge Recreation Area

The Greenbridge Recreation Area has access to shoreline fishing trails north and south from the access point (Figure 5-8). The northern section of the shoreline fishing trail is approximately 0.1 miles long, but then continues as an unauthorized trail for about 0.6 miles. The southern portion runs approximately 0.25 miles. The average trail width is about 2 feet. The main use for the shoreline trail consists of accessing a canoe storage area, and shoreline fishing. The segment of the shoreline trail that runs north of the Greenbridge Recreation Area has areas of bank erosion due to foot traffic and canoe storage (Photo 5-34). The trail exhibited assorted trash.

Brighton Dam Recreation Area

This short section (<0.1 miles) of shoreline fishing trail can be accessed from the Brighton Dam recreation Area (Figure 5-8). There is localized bank erosion due to fishing at the edge of water (Photo 5-35). There are no trash receptacles available near the shoreline fishing trail.

Big Branch Recreation Area

The surveyed shoreline trails consisted of segments that extend south of the Big Branch Recreation Area for about 0.7 miles (Figure 5-7). The trail has an average width of about 2 feet, and has steep slopes and protruding rock formations. There is localized bank erosion due to fishing access at the edge of water. An unauthorized trail spur connects the shoreline fishing trail to a playground adjacent to Triadelphia Mill Road. There is a high potential for trail erosion south from the playground due to a steep trail slope and very high bank slope (Photo 5-36). Minor rutting 4 inches deep over a length of 10 feet was observed along a moderately sloped area of 11 degrees.

Pig Tail Recreation Area

A shoreline fishing trail begins at the Pig Tail Recreation Area, and runs south along the eastern bank (Figure 5-8). The trail is approximately 9 feet wide for about 0.5 miles, and then it narrows to about 2 feet wide. There are several areas with existing trail erosion (Photo 5-37). Horse manure was observed on the trail, indicating unauthorized recreational use.

5.1.2.2 Triadelphia WSSC Access Road

WSSC Access Road: Triadelphia Lake Road

This section of WSSC Access Road extends to the north and south of Triadelphia Lake Road (Figure 5-9). This section of the WSSC Access Road is approximately 1.7 miles in length. The road has an average width of approximately 10 feet, and maximum width of 15 feet (Photo 5-38). Slopes in this section are between 6 and 10 degrees. The Access Road has minor rutting from vehicles (Photo 5-39). Trees along one section of the trail were numbered with red spray paint, and it appeared as if the trail had recently been cleared by a small dozer based on the appearance of the surface. (Photo 5-40).

Greenbridge West

This section of WSSC Access Road is approximately 5.0 miles in length (Figure 5-10). Road width varies between 6 and 13 feet (Photo 5-41), but is about 10 feet on average. The slopes along the road are relatively flat and typically range between 6 and 10 degrees. The midsection of this trail can be accessed from Denit Estates Drive. Rutting and slight erosion are noted throughout most of this trail. However, one area in particular had more significant rutting of 10 inches deep, over a length of about 150 feet and 2.5 feet in width (Photo 5-42).

Greenbridge East

This section of WSSC Access Road is approximately 1.3 miles in length (Figure 5-10). The width of this trail varies between 8 and 13 feet, but is about 10 feet on average. Slopes vary along the trail between 8 and 15 degrees with most recorded slopes measuring roughly 10 degrees. No erosive conditions were noted on the road, although there are areas with erosion potential due to road alignment and slope conditions. The road crosses areas of open grassland that drain directly into the reservoir (Photo 5-43). There is an unauthorized trail spur from the Access Road leading to the shoreline.

West Big Branch

The Access Road is approximately 5.99 miles in length (Figure 5-10). The width of the road ranges from 8 and 11 feet. Moderate slopes are present with a maximum of 15 degrees (Photo 5-44) but average about 10 degrees. Most of the areas west of the Big Branch Access Road were overgrown with thick vegetation (Photo 5-45). The road shows signs of slight rutting caused from vehicle traffic (Photo 5-46).

Pigtail

The Access Road is approximately 5.05 miles in length (Figure 5-10). The majority of the road had a width of roughly 10 feet, but ranged from 6 feet to 16 feet. The slope of the road varied significantly with a typical slope of 10 degrees and a maximum slope of 24 degrees. Most of the road is in good condition, though there were areas with rutting. The most significant rutting was 10 inches deep, over a length of 200 feet and about 1 foot width (Photo 5-47).

5.2 Access Points

5.2.1 Rocky Gorge Reservoir Public Access Areas

There are eight (8) public access entrances to the Rocky Gorge property. Each is described below.

Tucker Lane

Tucker Lane is located on west bank of Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Montgomery County), and consists of paved road shoulder parking off of Tucker Lane (Photo 5-48). The parking area dimensions are 4 x 100 feet, which will accommodate approximately 5 cars. Tucker Lane is used for access to an authorized shoreline fishing trail, and to access the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road (Photo 5-49). Level of use was observed by EA to be low. The area drains toward Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The access point did not have any obvious signs of erosion or erosion potential.

Brown's Bridge at Ednor Road

Brown's Bridge is located on both north (Brown's Bridge Road) and south banks (Ednor Road) of Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Howard and Montgomery County sides, respectively); however, only the north Howard County side access area has been closed by WSSC.

The Ednor Road access area consists of a portable toilet, boat launch ramp, gravel parking lot, and trash receptacles. The parking areas are 100 x 35 feet (Montgomery County side and east of Ednor Road.), and 100 x 100 feet (Montgomery County side and west of Ednor Road). The parking areas do not have ground striping, but the size of the parking lot is sufficient to accommodate many vehicles (Photo 5-50). The access point is used to gain access to the equestrian trail west of Ednor Road, and provides access for boat launching and shoreline fishing. Due to availability of multiple parking areas, the level of use is assumed to be relatively high. The area drains toward Rocky Gorge Reservoir. There is a large rut in the parking area on Montgomery County side and east of Ednor Road (Photo 5-51 and Photo 5-52). The rut measures approximately 2.5 inches deep, and is 2 feet wide and 300 feet long. Otherwise, the access point has low erosion potential.

Brogden Road

The Brogden Road access area provides public access to the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road. The only parking area available consists of a gravel turnabout at the cul-de-sac on Brogden Road that is also used by school busses as a turnaround (Photo 5-53). A posted WSSC sign indicates that the access point is restricted to "Bridle Trail Entrance Only" (Photo 5-54). Level of use appears to be relatively low, with only off-road parking available. The area drains toward Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The access point was stable with no current indication of erosion.

Batson Road

The Batson Road access area provides public access to the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road. There is no designated parking area. A gravel turnabout (Photo 5-55) has off-road parking that can accommodate several vehicles; however, there is no suitable parking for horse

trailers. Level of use was observed to be low. The area drains toward Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The access point was observed to have considerable uncollected trash.

Kruhm Road

The Kruhm Road access area provides public access to the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road. The only parking available is roadside parking along Kruhm Road, just outside a gated private property at the terminal end of Kruhm Road (Photo 5-56). Roadside parking in this area is flat and safe from traffic, but there is no place to turn around a trailer rig, and therefore is not suitable for horse trailers.

Burtons Lane

The Burtons Lane access area provides public access to the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road. There are no designated parking spaces along Burtons Lane, and the roadside parking that is available is not suitable for horse trailers (Photo 5-57). Adjacent property owners at this location complained about public parking on their property.

Supplee Lane Recreational Area

Supplee Lane is located on south bank of Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's County), and consists of a picnic area (Photo 5-58), portable restroom facility, boat launch ramp (Photo 5-59), and paved parking lot (cars and boat trailers), and trash receptacles. The parking areas are 75 x 315 feet (Photo 5-60). There are 17 car spaces, 4 handicap spaces, and 32 boat trailer spaces marked. The main uses for the Supplee Lane Recreational Area are boat launching, fishing, picnicking, and for access to the equestrian trail on the WSSC Access Road. Due to availability of different types of parking spaces, this is a high use area. The area drains toward the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The access point has no signs of obvious erosion. Dog owners were observed allowing their dogs to swim in the reservoir, which is an unauthorized practice and violates WSSC's watershed regulation. There is slope erosion at the beginning of the trail on the east side shoreline fishing trail.

Scott's Cove Recreational Area

The Scott's Cove Recreational Area (Photo 5-61) is located on the north bank of Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Howard County), and consists of picnic area, playground, portable restroom facility, boat launch ramp, canoe storage/parking, gravel parking lots (at two locations off of Harding Road), and trash receptacles. The parking areas were measured to be 462 x 64 feet (north lot) and 362 x 55 feet (south lot). There is no ground striping in the parking area to delineate parking spaces. The main uses for are picnicking, canoe storage, boat launching, and shoreline fishing. This is a high use area, due to availability of multiple designated parking areas. The area drains toward Rocky Gorge Reservoir. The access point does not have any obvious signs for high erosion potential. Dog owners were observed allowing their dogs to swim in the reservoir, which is an unauthorized practice and violates WSSC's Watershed Regulation. The use of canoe storage/parking has created some bank erosion along the shoreline trail leading from this access area.

5.2.2 Triadelphia Reservoir Public Access Areas

There are five (5) public access points to WSSC's Triadelphia watershed. Each is described below.

Brighton Dam Recreational Area

Parking at Brighton Dam Recreational Area consists of a paved primary parking lot (Photo 5-62), and paved overflow parking lot (Photo 5-63). The site contains a Welcome Center, a fenced in picnic area (Photo 5-64) portable restroom facilities, open space (Photo 5-65), and WSSC maintenance facility. There are fifty-four (54) parking spaces and three (3) handicapped parking spaces in the primary parking lot. An overflow parking lot has an additional thirty-two (32) parking spaces and a gravel road within the picnic areas. The area drains toward the Patuxent River below Brighton Dam. There was no major deterioration observed that would adversely affect water quality such as erosion or uncollected trash. There is some localized river bank erosion areas due to fishing access to the edge of water (Photo 5-66). There were numerous trash receptacles available.

Pig Tail Recreational Area

Pig Tail Recreational Area (Photo 5-67) is located on the east bank of Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard County), and consists of paved parking (primary parking lot), portable restroom facility, boat launch ramp, parking, and trash receptacles. The parking area was measured 142 x 45 feet with thirteen (13) spaces and one (1) handicapped space. The main uses are boat launching and fishing, but horse manure was observed at this site indicating recent unauthorized recreational use. Level of use was considered to be medium, due to available parking. The area drains toward Triadelphia Reservoir. There were no indications of substantial impacts to water quality from erosion, trash, or animal wastes.

Big Branch Recreational Area

Big Branch Recreational Area is located on the north bank of Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard County) and includes paved parking (parking lot off of Triadelphia Mill Road), a portable restroom facility (Photo 5-68), playground, boat launch ramp (Photo 5-69), parking, and trash receptacles. The parking area is 48 x 107 feet with twelve (12) spaces and one (1) handicapped space. The main uses of the site are picnicking, boat launching, and fishing. Level of use is considered to be medium, because of the number of designated parking spaces. The area drains toward Triadelphia Reservoir (Photo 5-70). There were no indications of potential erosion, or impacts to water quality at this access area.

Triadelphia Recreational Area

Triadelphia Recreational Area is located on the south bank of Triadelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) and includes canoe parking/storage, picnic area, outdoor restroom facility (Photo 5-71), playground, boat launch ramp (Photo 5-72), fishing dock (Photo 5-73), paved and grass/gravel parking lots (primary and overflow lots) (Photo 5-74), and trash receptacles (Photo 5-75). The parking areas were measured 120 x 145 feet (primary) and 80 x 75 feet (overflow) with twenty-three (23) spaces, two (2) handicapped spaces, and five (5) boat trailer parking spaces for the primary parking lot. The overflow parking lot was un-striped, therefore the number of spaces was not determined. The main uses of the site are picnicking, boat launching, hunting (due to newly established trails), and fishing. Level of use was considered to be relatively high, due to availability of overflow parking. The area drains toward Triadelphia Reservoir. There are areas of localized bank erosion on the shoreline trail due to fishing access and canoe parking/storage.

Greenbridge Recreational Area

This access area is located on the west bank of Triadelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County), and consists of paved parking (primary parking lot), portable restroom facility (Photo 5-76), boat launch ramp (Photo 5-77), boat trailer parking, trash receptacles, and shoreline canoe parking/storage. The parking area was measured as 85 x 225 feet with twenty-three (23) spaces, two (2) handicapped spaces and ten (10) boat trailer spaces. The main uses of this site are boating and fishing. Level of use was considered to be medium, due to available parking. The area drains toward Triadelphia Reservoir. There are bank erosion areas with un-stabilized slopes due to canoe parking/storage at the shoreline and foot traffic to the canoe storage space (Photo 5-78).

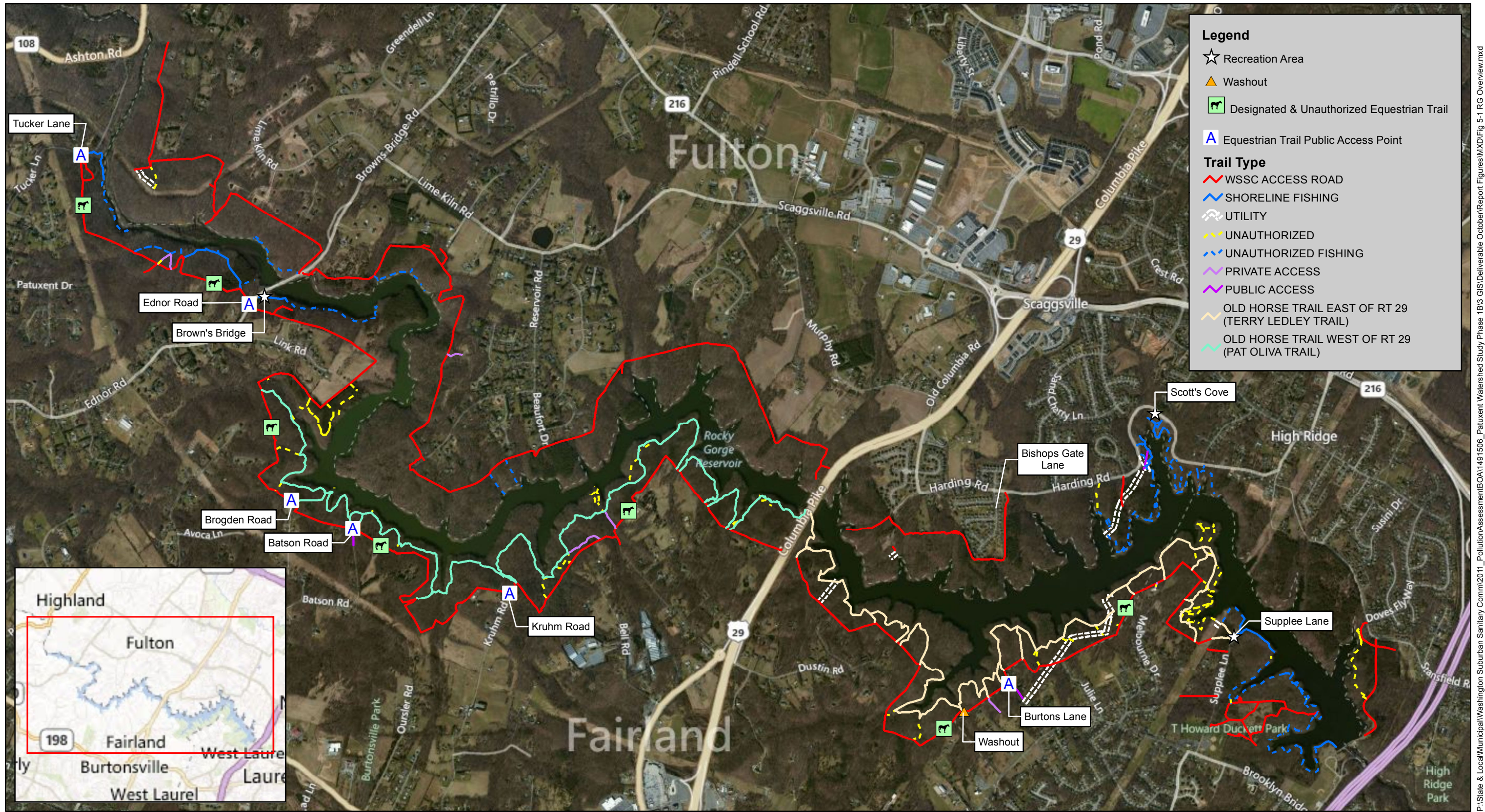
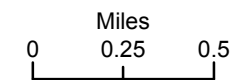


Figure 5-1. Overview Map of Rocky Gorge Reservoir



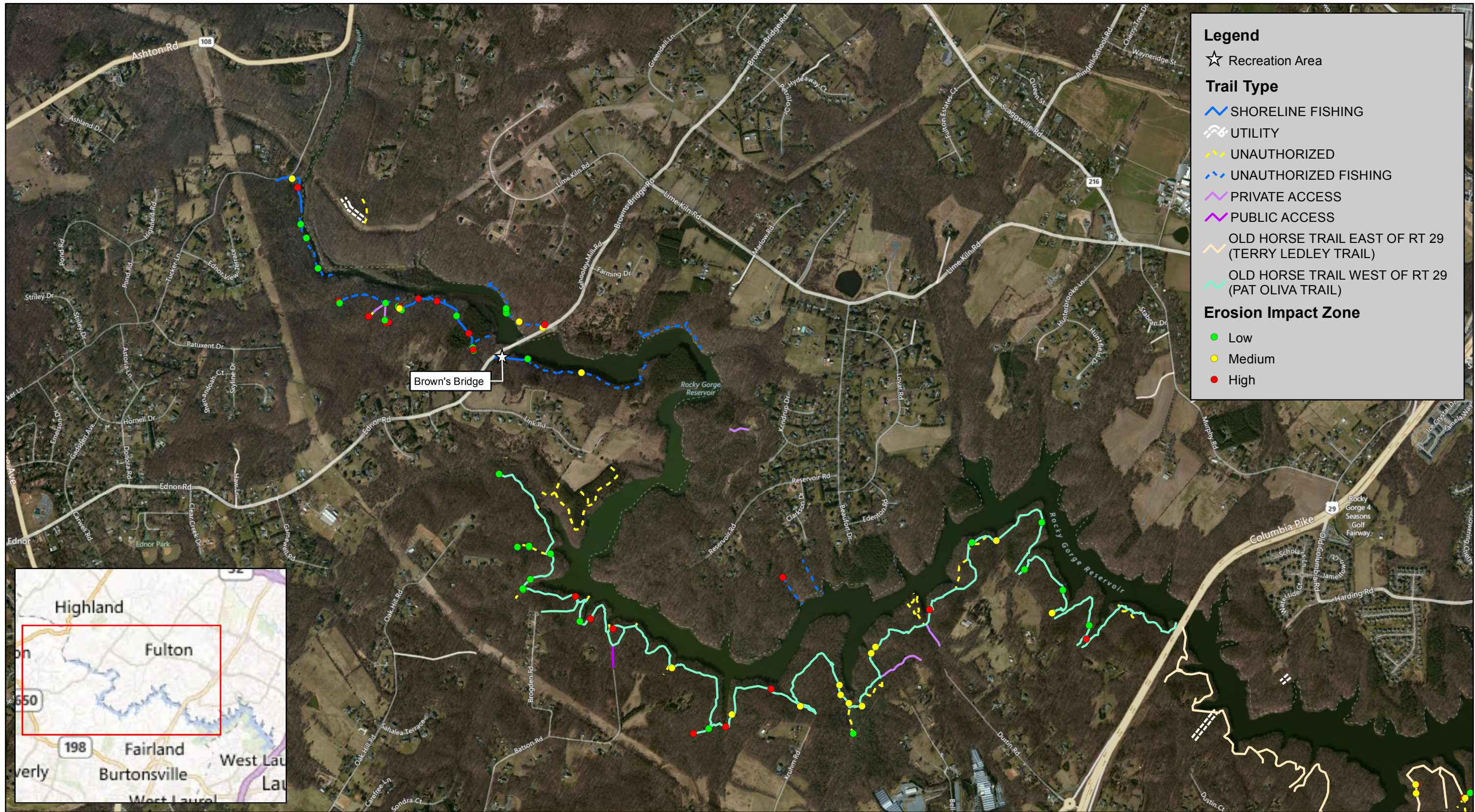


Figure 5-2. Western Trails, Shoreline & Interior
Rocky Gorge Reservoir

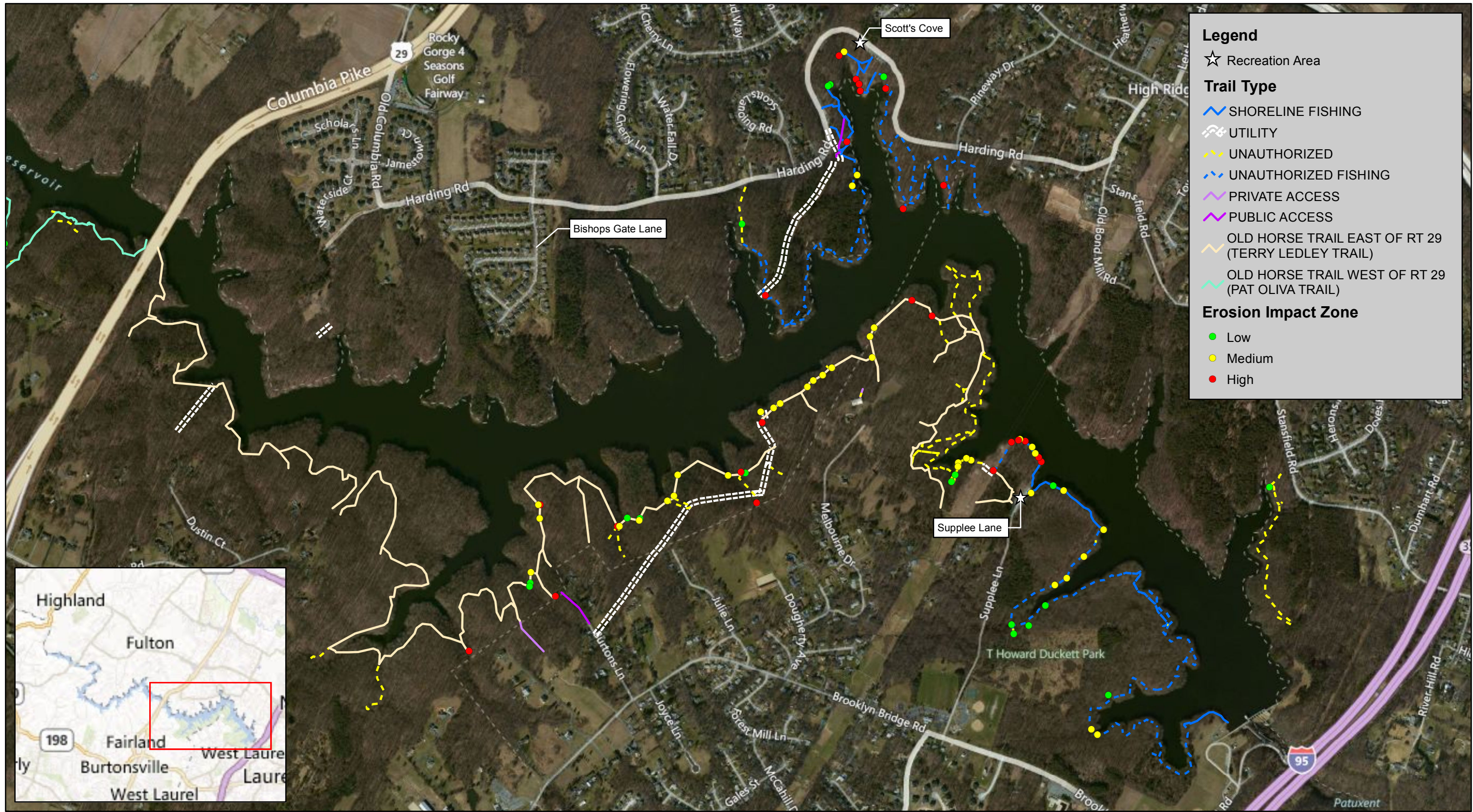


Figure 5-3. Eastern Trails, Shoreline & Interior
Rocky Gorge Reservoir



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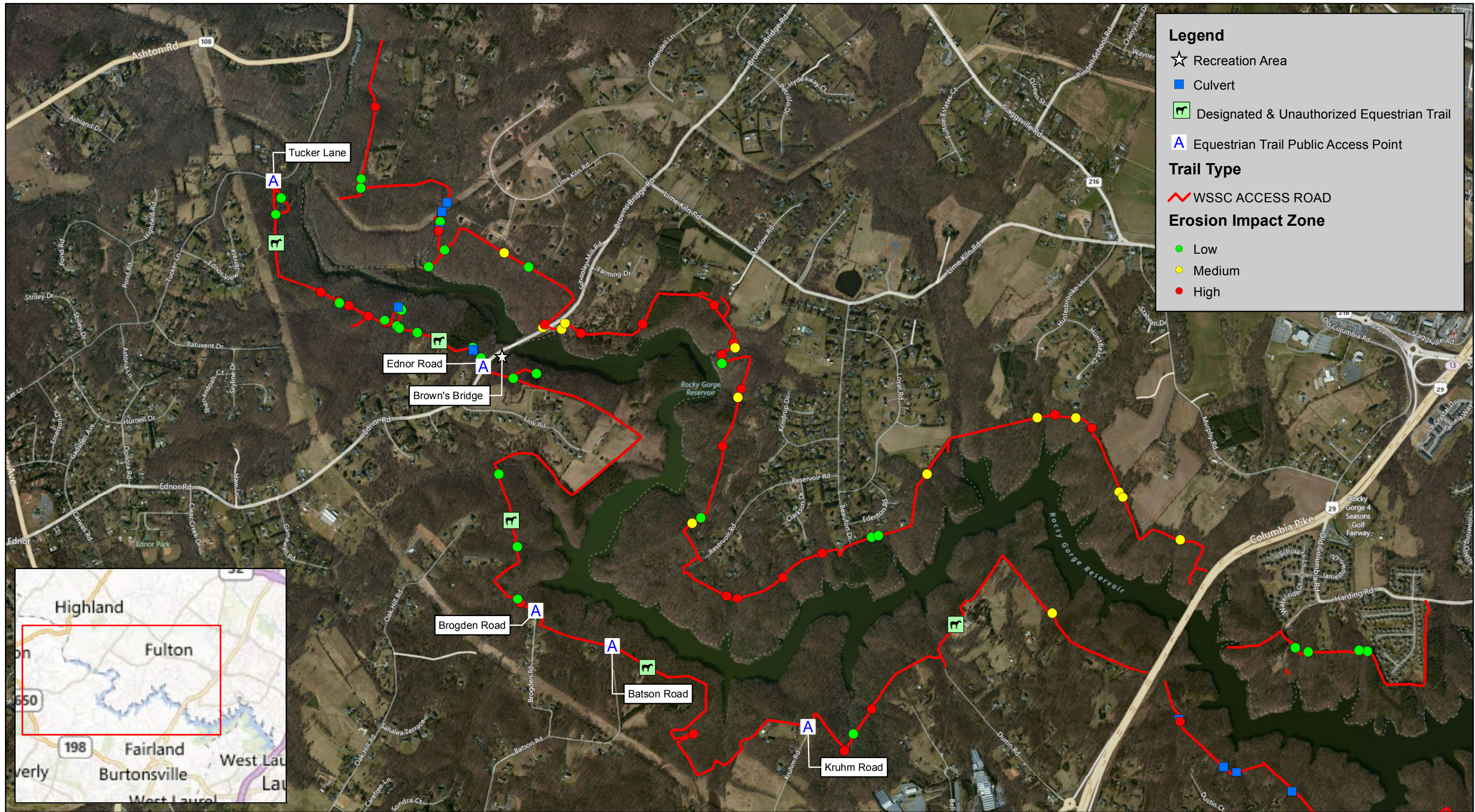


Figure 5-4. Western Trails, WSSC Access Road
Rocky Gorge Reservoir

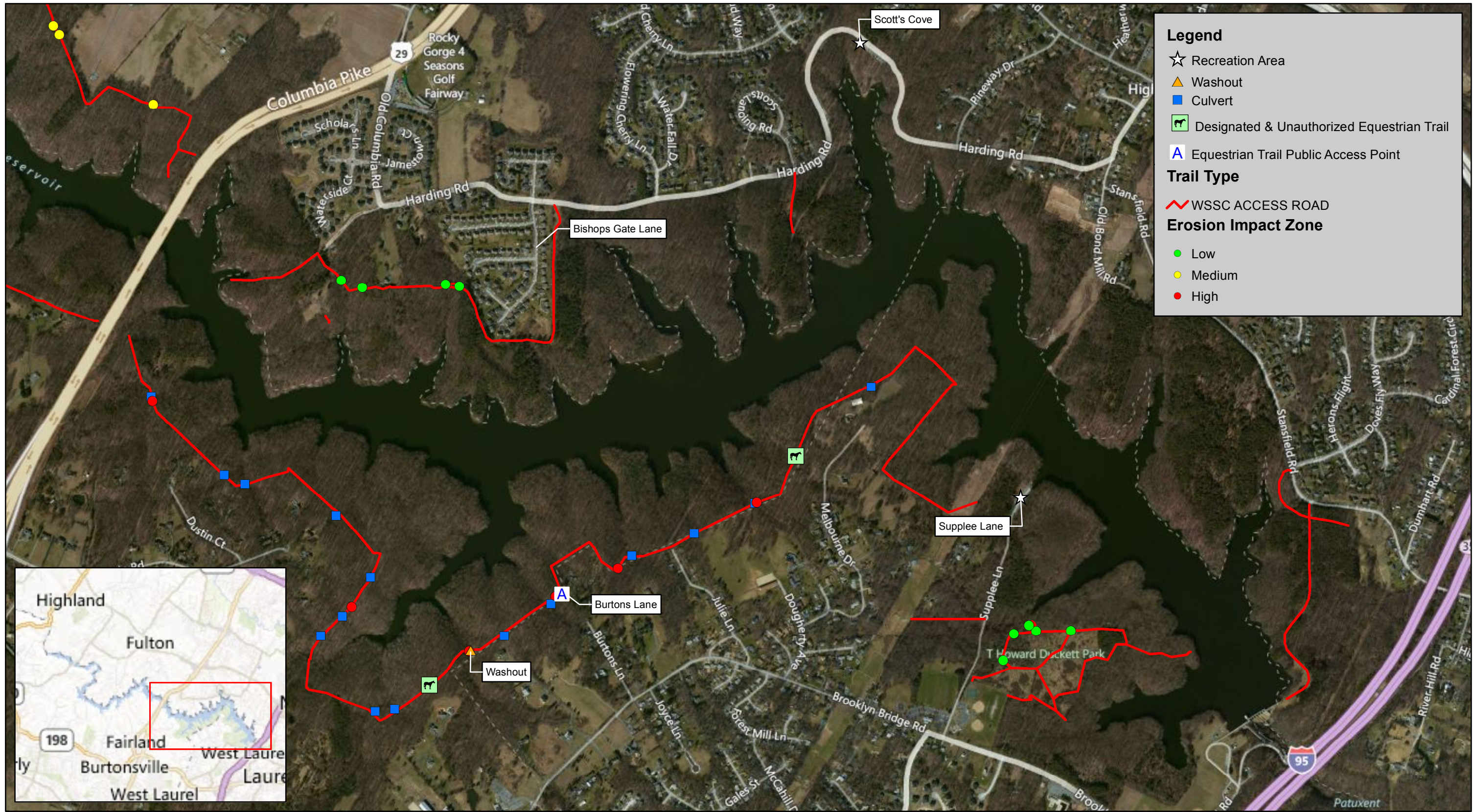
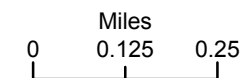


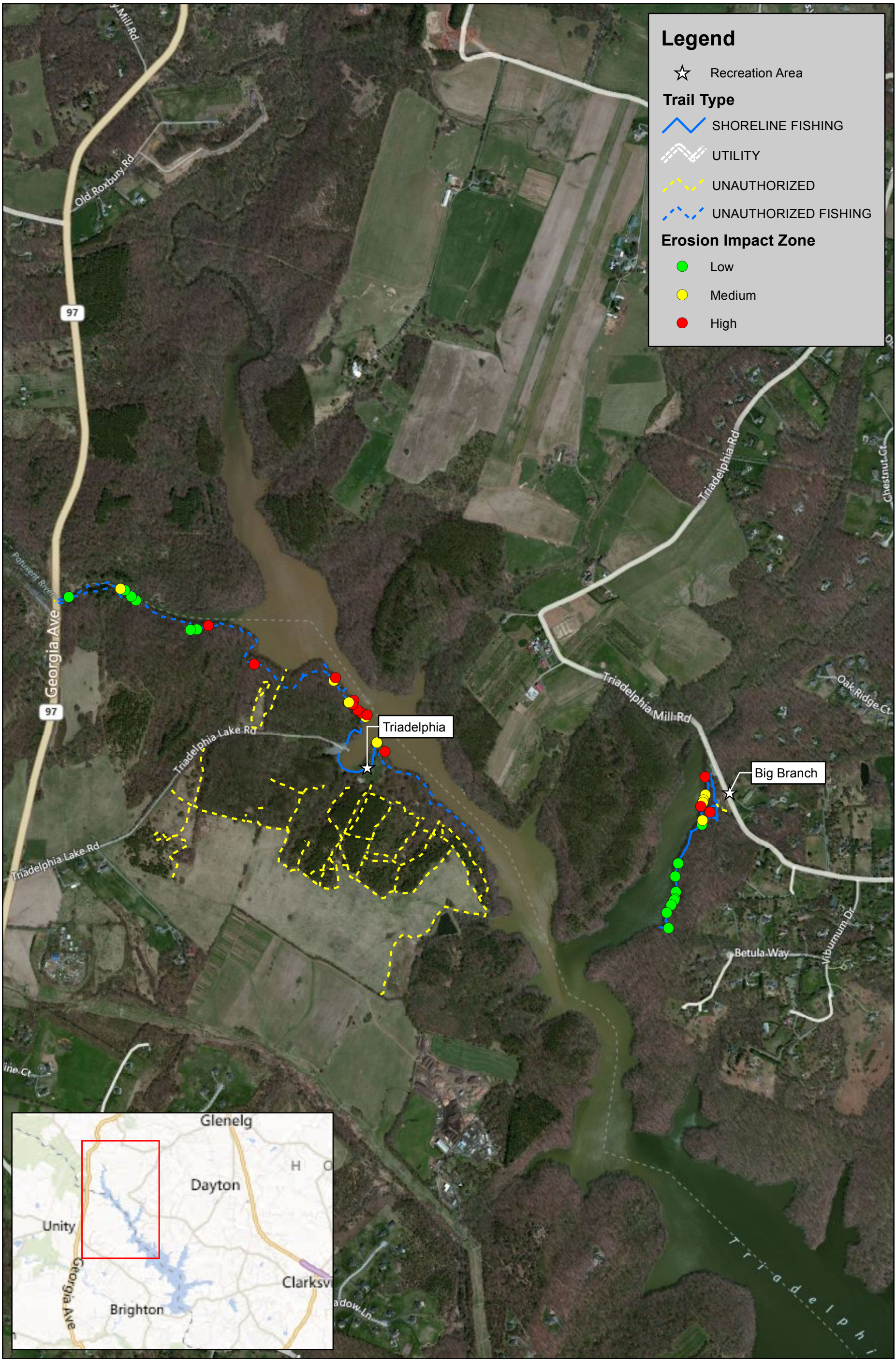
Figure 5-5. Eastern Trails, WSSC Access Road
Rocky Gorge Reservoir





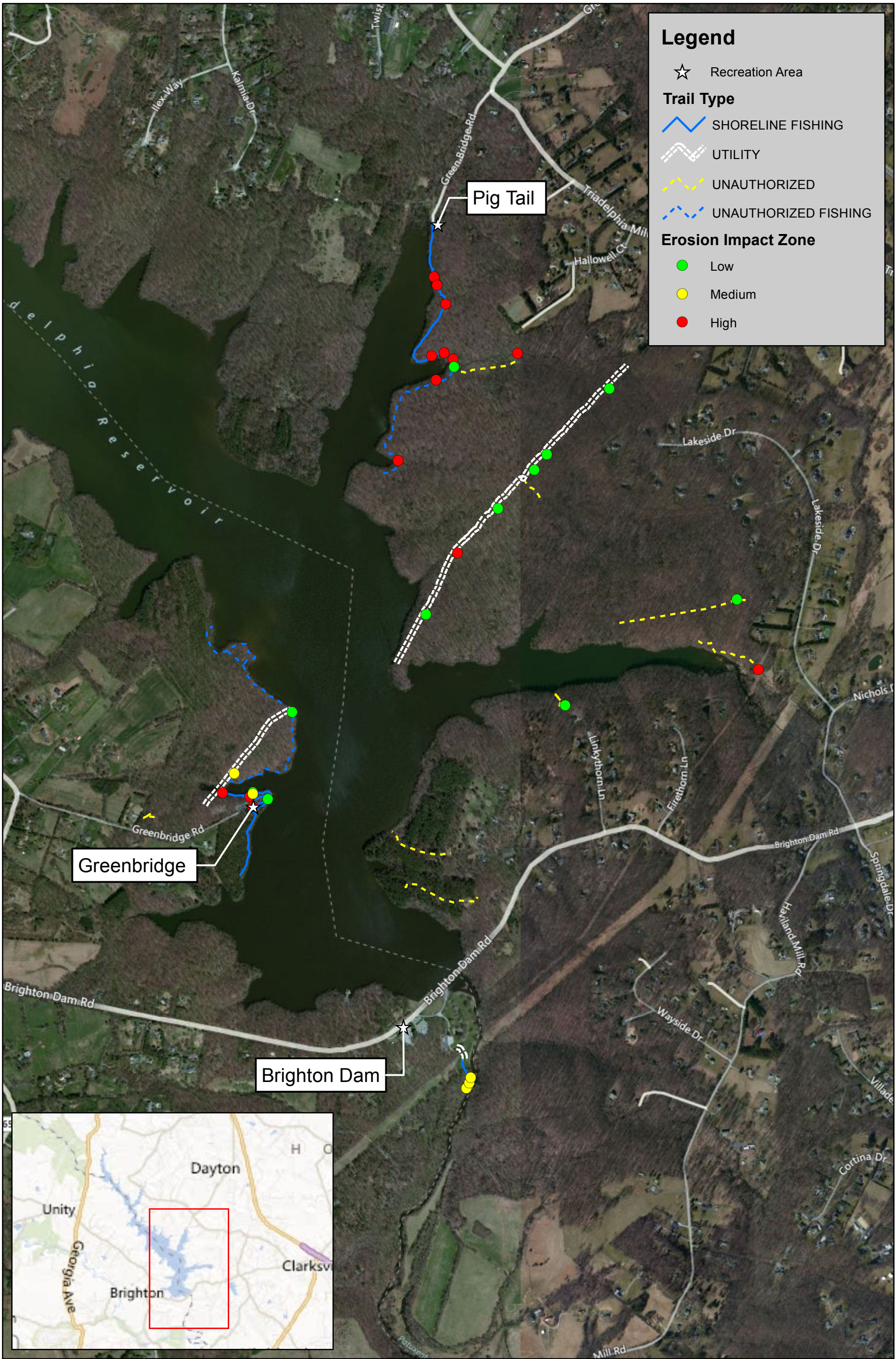
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Figure 5-7. Northern Trails, Shoreline & Interior
Triadelphia Reservoir



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Figure 5-9. Northern Trails, WSSC Access Road
Triadelphia Reservoir



Miles
0 0.125 0.25

Data Sources:
WSSC
Aerial Imagery (c) 2010 Microsoft Corporation



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Figure 5-10. Southern Trails, WSSC Access Road
Triadelphia Reservoir



Miles
0 0.125 0.25

Data Sources:
WSSC
Aerial Imagery (c) 2010 Microsoft Corporation

TABLE 5-1 NAMING CONVENTIONS USED TO SUMMARIZE TRAIL MAPPING DATA

Trail Designation	Description
Designated Equestrian Trail	Section of the WSSC Access Road located within buffer property of the Rocky Gorge Reservoir that is currently designated for equestrian use. The Designated Equestrian Trail extends from Supplee Lane (Prince George's County) to Tucker Lane (Montgomery County).
Interior Trails	Trails located on reservoir buffer property between the WSSC Access Road and the shoreline.
Old Horse Trails	Interior trails previously permitted by WSSC for horseback riding, but currently not authorized for recreational use. (i.e. Terry Ledley Trail and Pat Oliva Trail, see below)
Pat Oliva Trail	Old Horse Trail used by equestrians that is located on the Rocky Gorge reservoir, and extends from Route 29 to the WSSC Access Road near Link Road (Montgomery County only).
Private Access	Unauthorized trails from private residences used to gain access to WSSC-owned reservoir buffer property.
Public Access	Trails used to gain access to WSSC-owned reservoir buffer property.
Shoreline Fishing	Shoreline trail designated by WSSC for fishing.
Terry Ledley Trail	Old Horse Trail used previously by equestrians that is located on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, and extends from Route 29 to Supplee Lane (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties).
Unauthorized	Unauthorized trails used to gain access to WSSC-owned reservoir buffer property.
Unauthorized Fishing	Unauthorized shoreline trails used for fishing.
Utility	Trail following a public utility, such as gas pipeline or electric transmission line; may also be a cleared pathway in an otherwise forested area, allowing access for utility company maintenance, but not authorized for public recreation.
WSSC Access Road	Perimeter access road used by WSSC.

**TABLE 5-2 SUMMARY OF TRAILS AND WSSC ACCESS ROAD MAPPED
WITHIN THE WSSC-OWNED BUFFER OF THE ROCKY GORGE RESERVOIR**

Trail Designation	Miles of Trails Mapped	Total Miles of Trail with Highly Erodible Soils (HES)	Percent with Highly Erodible Soils (HES) ¹
WSSC Access Road	21.2	13.7	65%
Designated Equestrian Trail	10.1	9.1	90%
Old Horse Trail:	11.9	10.7	90%
Pat Oliva Trail	6.1	5.5	90%
Terry Ledley Trail	5.8	5.2	90%
Private Access	0.6	0.5	83%
Public Access	0.3	0.20	67%
Shoreline Fishing	1.7	1.1	65%
Unauthorized	5.0	4.4	88%
Unauthorized Fishing	7.3	5.7	78%
Utility	1.4	0.8	57%
Total	49.4	37.1	75%

1. The Highly Erodible Soils (HES) designation does not represent actual erosion, but merely a classification of soil type with an inherent susceptibility to erosion as discussed in Section 3.3 and Section 6.2.

**TABLE 5-3 SUMMARY OF TRAILS AND WSSC ACCESS ROAD MAPPED
WITHIN THE WSSC-OWNED BUFFER OF THE TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR**

Trail Designation	Miles of Trails Mapped	Total Miles of Trail with Highly Erodible Soils (HES)	Percent with Highly Erodible Soils (HES) ¹
WSSC Access Road	20.3	11.7	58%
Shoreline Fishing	1.9	1.6	84%
Unauthorized	5.9	4.7	80%
Unauthorized Fishing	2.8	2.2	79%
Utility	1.2	0.5	42%
Total	32.1	20.7	64%

1. The Highly Erodible Soils (HES) designation does not represent actual erosion, but merely a classification of soil type with an inherent susceptibility to erosion as discussed in Section 3.3 and Section 6.2.